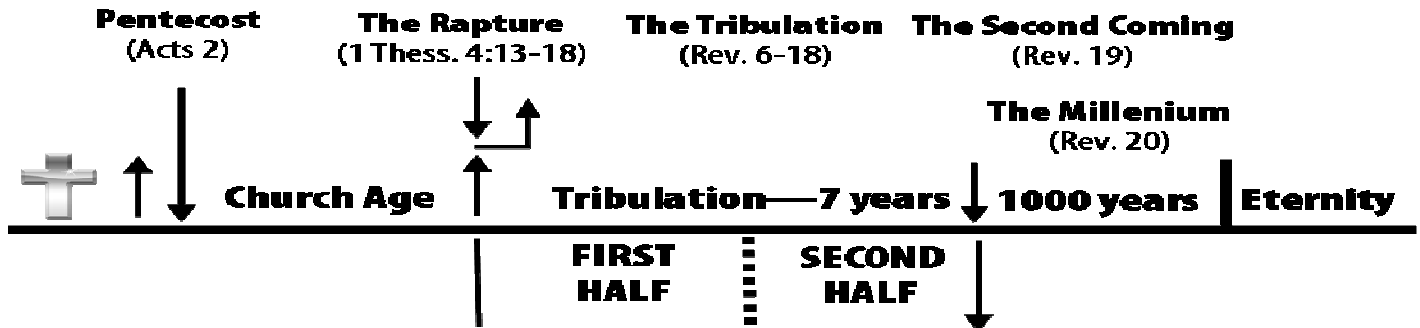


Understanding The Events Surrounding The Rapture

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
"Strength For Stressful Times", Part 4
Pastor Vince DiPaola

I) UNTANGLING CONFUSION ABOUT "THE DAY OF THE LORD" (v.1-2)

1) The Subject: THE RAPTURE. (v.1)



2) The Request: STAY COMPOSED! (v.2)

II) WHAT MUST HAPPEN BEFORE "THE DAY OF THE LORD" BEGINS? (v.3-12)

4 Things That Occur Before "The Day of the Lord"...

1st) A church that is "falling away" from truth. (v.3a, see also 1Timothy 4:1-5, 2Timothy 3:1-9, 2Peter 2:1-15, 3:3-4)

*Lesson: Always KNOW the truth and LIVE the truth! (see Acts 17:11)

2nd) A man that is revealed as "the world ruler". (v.3b-5, see also Daniel 7:25, 8:25, 11:36, Revelation 13:5)

*Lesson: Never credit PEOPLE with the things that belong to GOD!

3rd) The Holy Spirit no longer restrains evil in the world. (v.6-7)

*Lesson: Only God's Holy Spirit can produce GOOD and keep EVIL in check!

4th) The world is deceived by the tactics of "the world ruler". (v.8-12)

*Lesson: People must be lovingly told the true GOOD NEWS while they have time!